MARVEL

cullen BUNN · iban COELLO · matt YACKEY

#5

VENOMVERSE

delgado

WHEN SPIDER-MAN DISCREDITED ONE OF HIS STORIES, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING – EXCEPT A BURNING HATRED FOR THE WALL-CRAWLER. AFTER BONDING WITH A SENTIENT AND AGGRESSIVE ALIEN THAT SHARED A SIMILAR DISDAIN OF SPIDER-MAN, THE TWO BECAME THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED VENOM

VENOMVERSE

*A NEW SPECIES CALLED **POISONS** HAVE BEEN HUNTING A SMALL BAND OF SYMBIOTIC HEROES, STEALING THEIR ABILITIES AND CONSUMING THEM IN THE PROCESS.*

*AFTER TWO SEPARATE POISON AMBUSHES, BOTH CAPTAIN AMERICA AND SPIDER-MAN HAVE BEEN TURNED, LEAVING **EDDIE BROCK/VENOM** TO LEAD THE GROUP. FOR HIS FIRST ACT IN COMMAND, BROCK ORDERED DOCTOR STRANGE TO SUMMON THE BLOODTHIRSTY SERIAL KILLER CARNAGE AS A SECRET WEAPON. IN HIS FIRST CONFLICT, CARNAGE PROVED EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE POISONS, BUT THEY WERE ABLE TO KIDNAP DOCTOR STRANGE AS THEY RETREATED.*

MEANWHILE, DEADPOOL WILLINGLY OFFERED HIMSELF TO THE POISONS ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT HIS UNIQUE PERSONALITY MIGHT SURVIVE THE BONDING PROCESS. HIS GAMBLE PAID OFF, AND HE LEARNED THE TRUTH: THANKS TO STRANGE'S SUMMONING OF THE VENOMS, THE POISONS KNOW OF THE EXISTENCE OF A MULTIVERSE – ONE WITH MORE POWERED BEINGS RIPE FOR CONSUMPTION THAN THEY COULD HAVE EVER DREAMED!

WRITER **CULLEN BUNN**

ARTIST **IBAN COELLO**

COLOR ARTIST **MATT YACKEY**

LETTERER **VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA**

COVER ARTISTS **NICK BRADSHAW & EDGAR DELGADO**

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS **CLAYTON CRAIN; DECLAN SHALVEY & JORDIE BELLAIRE; ELIZABETH TORQUE**

ASSISTANT EDITOR **ALLISON STOCK**

EDITOR **DEVIN LEWIS**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR **NICK LOWE**

EDITOR IN CHIEF **AXEL ALONSO**

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER **JOE QUESADA**

PRESIDENT **DAN BUCKLEY**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **ALAN FINE**

© 2017 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

HE KNOWS THE ***SONIC RESTRAINTS*** WILL TORMENT HIM, BUT STILL HE STRUGGLES.

CARNAGE ISN'T ONE TO GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT.

SOON WE WILL HAVE ALL THE SYMBIOTES WE WILL EVER NEED.

THEN WE'LL PEEL HIM APART AND DISCOVER HOW WE MIGHT USE ***HIS*** SYMBIOTE AS WELL.

WE'LL FIND A WAY TO COUNTER OUR VULNERABILITY TO THOSE LIKE HIM.

PERHAPS WE WILL EVEN DISCOVER A MEANS TO ADD HIM TO OUR ***ARSENAL.***

BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW AND YOU'LL CHOKE ON--

YEEEEARRRGH!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

LOUD, HUH?

THAT'S GOOD.

IT COVERS THE SOUND--

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

--OF ME GUTTING YOU!

NICE JOB SETTING OFF THOSE RESTRAINTS TO GIVE US A LITTLE COVER.

WASN'T ON PURPOSE.

WELL... NICE JOB BEING AN *IDIOT*.

IT'S GONNA BE A *BLOODY* RIDE!

ON YER FEET, CARNAGE.

WE'VE STILL GOT A *JOB* TO DO.

YEAH, YEAH.

CAUSE A *DISTRACTION* SO THE REST OF YOUR LITTLE BUDDIES CAN MAKE THEIR MOVE.

WELL, STRAP IN.

REEEET!
REEEEEEET!
REEEET!
THAT'S OUR SIGNAL.
THERE'RE A LOT OF *BABY POISONS* DOWN THERE. TOO MANY FOR MY TASTES.
WE GOTTA BE CAREFUL.
ONE TOUCH AND WE'RE TOAST.
DON'T SWEAT IT, ROCKET...
"...I'VE GOT IT COVERED."
DAMN.
WE'VE SEEN SOME NASTY THINGS IN OUR TIME...
...BUT *ANTS?*
I KNOW.
AWESOME, RIGHT?
THAT'S ONE WORD FOR IT.
ANOTHER IS *"YEEEEEECH"!*

ALL RIGHT. TIME TO SHAKE THINGS UP.

MJ, LOGAN--STAY WITH THE RACCOON AND THE ANT. KEEP UNFRIENDLIES OFF THEIR BACK.

PANTHER, WOLVERINE, MANIA--YOU'RE WITH US. WE FIND STRANGE BEFORE ROCKET BRINGS THIS PLACE DOWN AROUND OUR EARS.

YOU GOT THIS?

EH, Y'KNOW.

THIS WHOLE PLACE IS A *SHIP.*

SHIPS HAVE ENGINES...AND REACTORS... AND *FUEL.*

THAT MAKES FOR A FUN *RECIPE.*

CARNAGE AND DEADPOOL ARE DOING *THEIR* PART.

IT WON'T TAKE LONG, THOUGH, BEFORE THE POISONS SEE THROUGH THE MISDIRECTION.

LET 'EM.

THOSE TWO PSYCHOS AREN'T THE *ONLY* DISTRACTIONS WE HAVE PLANNED.

WAY I SEE IT, THESE POISONS MIGHT BE *HARD CASES* NOW, BUT THAT WASN'T *ALWAYS* THE WAY.

BEFORE THEY FOUND OUT THAT VENOM SYMBIOTES WOULD TURN THEM INTO MONSTERS, THEY WERE WEAK, COWARDLY.

"THAT JUST GAVE THEM A SHOT IN THE ARM.

"GAVE THEM A KICK IN THE REAR, BUT IT TURNED THEM INTO *BULLIES*, TOO.

"GUESS WE ALL KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT THAT.

"BUT WE AREN'T THE ONES HUNTING PEOPLE-- *CONSUMING* PEOPLE.

"WE CHOSE TO BE BETTER--TO BE *PROTECTORS*. THEY THINK THAT'S A *WEAKNESS*. DESPITE TAKING DOZENS OF US, THEY STILL DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH.

"THAT VALUING LIFE DOESN'T MAKE YOU INCAPABLE OF *TAKING* IT WHEN SURVIVAL IS AT STAKE.

"THEY WON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH US...

"...NOT WHEN WE STOP RUNNING...

"...NOT WHEN WE START HITTING BACK...

"...NOT WHEN WE'RE WILLING TO *DIE* FIGHTING THEM."

THIS STUFF MAKES NO SENSE.

IT'S ALL... *ALIEN.*

HEH.

WHO DO YA THINK YER DEALING WITH?

THIS IS *CAKE.*

IF IT'S SO EASY, THEN MAKE IT SNAPPY.

YEAH, WE'RE SITTING--

SHUNK!

WE GOT COMPANY.

DON'T WORRY, OLD MAN...

...I'LL HOLD THEM OFF.

"HE IS BREAKING."

HIS DEFENSES ARE FAILING.

IN A FEW MORE MINUTES, HE WILL BE *OURS.*

WE WILL CONSUME HIM AND USE HIS GIFTS TO BRING MORE WEAPONS INTO OUR ARSENAL.

YOU CAN'T EVEN HANDLE THE "WEAPONS" YOU'VE *GOT.*

YOU'RE JUST LETTING YOUR MOUTH WRITE CHECKS YOUR BUTTS CAN'T CASH!

ᚱᚠᛒᚦ ᚠᛈᚱᛗᛜᛇᚢᚢ ᛉᛇᛗᚷ--

I DON'T THINK SO, PAL!

THUMP!

I KNOW BETTER THAN TO LET YOU WIZARD TYPES GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE.

HRRRGK!

SGGGGLKT!

A SOLID STRATEGY.

THESE POISONS HEAL QUICKLY, THOUGH-- MORE QUICKLY THAN *WE* DO!

WASTE NO TIME WITH STRANGE.

SHAKGT!

MANIA--THE WIZARD!

I HOPE YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER TRICK OR TWO UP YOUR SLEEVE, DOC.

I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING SO LONG...I MAY NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH.

YOU NEED TO GET US OUT OF IT.

I'LL DO...

...WHAT I CAN.

VSSSSSH!

WHAT IS HE--

NO! The protective spell!

AS LONG AS THEY ARE WITHIN MY SIGILS, THEIR SPELLS CANNOT HARM US.

BUT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD THEM FOR LONG.

YOU CANNOT HOPE TO STOP US.

FOR A TIME, WE WERE SATISFIED WITH THE BEINGS OF *THIS* DIMENSION. BUT NOW? NOW THE HIVE IS TOO *STRONG*.

WE HAVE *OUTGROWN* THIS WORLD-- THIS *REALITY!*

AND IT IS ALL THANKS TO YOU, STRANGE! YOU HAVE BROUGHT CONVERTS FROM ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE ON A PILGRIMAGE--BROUGHT CRUSADERS TO THE FRONT LINES OF YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION!

SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH.

WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT.

WE'RE ENDING THIS WAR YOU'VE BROUGHT US INTO...

...AND WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.

YOU WEREN'T THINKING ABOUT LEAVING WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE, WERE YOU?

THAT'S NOT NICE, EDDIE.

WE HAVEN'T HAD OUR *REMATCH* YET.

THE REST OF YOU... STICK TO THE PLAN.

GET OUT OF HERE. GET TO ROCKET.

I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU... OR MAYBE NOT.

IF I DIE BEATING THE SNOT OUT OF THIS GUY...

...IT'LL BE WORTH IT!

SMASH!

ALMOST THERE.

WE'RE OUT OF TIME, ROCKET.

THEY'RE HERE. THEY'RE ON TOP OF US.

"AND YOU CAN BET THERE ARE MORE ON THE WAY."

ANY DISTRACTIONS CARNAGE AND DEADPOOL MIGHT HAVE CAUSED... THEY'VE RUN THEIR COURSE.

LIKE I SAID...

...I GOT MORE TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE.

CLICK!

"AND IT'S ABOUT TIME I GET TO SET OFF ONE OF MY HOME-GROWN FIREWORKS!"

WA-BOOOOOM!

FEEL THAT?

DID YOU FEEL THAT LITTLE VIBRATION RUNNING THROUGH THE SHIP'S HULL?

THAT WAS SOME OF THESE POISON GRAK-HEADS GETTING A NASTY SURPRISE COURTESY OF GOOD OL'--

IT... IT CAN'T BE!

C-CASSIE?

CASSIE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'VE MISSED YOU, DAD.

YOU'VE BEEN GONE SO LONG.

HOLD ON!

WAIT!

THAT AIN'T WHOEVER YOU *THINK* IT IS!

DAMN!

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THIS!

YOU KNOW--

--I CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF SAVING YOUR SORRY HIDE.

RAAAA--

ROCKET!

ROCKET!

IT...IT HURTS!

ROCKET! I'M SORRY! I THOUGHT IT WAS CASSIE!

ROCKET, DON'T LET IT--! PLEASE!

ROCKET, PLEAAAARGH!

SKWIKT

SLASH!

ARE YOU READY, ROCKET?

IS IT FINISHED?

J-JUST ABOUT.

I'VE REWIRED THE SHIP FOR SELF-DESTRUCTION.

I'VE TURNED THE WHOLE THING INTO ONE BIG BOMB.

GOOD. THEN I SAY WE SET IT OFF...

...AND YOU SEND US HOME BEFORE WE GET CAUGHT IN THE BLOWBACK.

I CANNOT.

I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH YET.

I HAVE SPENT TOO MUCH--

TOO MUCH, MAYBE. BUT NOT EVERYTHING.

HOME STRETCH, DOC.

I'M NOT DYING HERE.

WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING--

--YOU'RE ABOUT TO LOSE YOUR CHANCE.

WELL...

...HERE GOES NOTHING.

I'D LIKE TO SAY IT WAS NICE KNOWING ALL OF YOU, BUT...

...Y'KNOW.

YEEEAAARGHH!

GO!

GET OUT OF HERE WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

TO SEND YOU HOME...

...IT WILL TAKE *EVERYTHING* THAT I...

...THAT *WE*...

...HAVE.

YOU KNOW...

...THERE'S NO WAY THEY'RE GONNA SAVE *EITHER ONE* OF US...RIGHT?

AND YOU'RE *DISGUSTING*, IN A COUSIN-MARRYING SERIAL KILLER KINDA WAY...

#*%& YOU

...BUT THERE'S NO *ONE* I'D RATHER DIE WITH.

I ONLY PRAY...

-NNN-

...WE HAVE DONE ENOUGH...

-HRRGGH-

...TO STOP THEM.

SHA-THOOOOM!

STRANGE! THE MAGIC'S KILLING HIM! THE SPELL'S *EATING* HIM--

IF WE DIE HERE, THEN IT WILL BE--

DAMN! SOMETIMES I EVEN--

ROCKET?

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

AND DO YOU HAVE THE CREDITS YOU OWE ME?

--IMPRESS MYSELF!

I'M BACK!

I'M... FREE?

THE KING!

HE'S BACK!

--FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

THE KING HAS RETURNED!

--ALIVE!

HRRRN--

WE'RE...

...HOME.

PLACE LOOKS JUST LIKE IT DID WHEN I LEFT IT.

AND THAT MEANS THERE AIN'T A SCRAP TO EAT IN THE FRIDGE.

BETTER SLIP INTO OUR CIVILIAN DUDS AND GO GRAB A FEW BURGERS.

HEY, BROCK!

THE SUPER'S BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! SAYS YOU'RE WAY BEHIND ON RENT!

WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU *BEEN?*

OH, YOU KNOW...

...VISITING ALIEN PLANETS...FORMING REBELLIONS...

...SAVING THE UNIVERSE.

THE END!

WELL VERSED

ASSISTANT EDITOR ALLISON STOCK
EDITOR DEVIN LEWIS
EXECUTIVE EDITOR NICK LOWE
EDITOR IN CHIEF AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER JOE QUESADA
PRESIDENT DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALAN FINE

AND THAT'S THAT! Eddie Brock is back home in the Marvel Universe, safe and sound, and after six months of hard work, we've reached the end of VENOMVERSE!

As I write this, VENOMVERSE #1 has only been on sale for about 24 hours, but that short amount of time hasn't stopped you fans out there in Mighty Marveldom from sending in a bunch of letters! We'll get to those in just a moment – BUT FIRST! The creative team on this series, Cullen Bunn, Iban Coello and Matt Yackey, wanted to write a quick word or two to you fans to say "thank you" for sticking with us through this whole bombastic adventure!

Just a quick shout of thanks to all the readers who joined us on this adventure. May the symbiotic relationship we share never be severed by some low-down, dirty Poison. I've wanted to write Venom again since my tenure on the main series ended years ago, and it was an absolute honor and an absolute blast to take part in this wild story.

Cullen Bunn

Thanks to everyone who has joined us in this venomized trip! Venom was part of my childhood and It was amazing be part of this event. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Iban Coello

A big thank you to everyone who came along with us on this ride! It was a real blast working with such great talents and all the fan's feedback was amazing too. My first Venom series and I got to color ALL the Venoms, how lucky was that?

Matt Yackey

All right, that's enough outta them! BACK TO YOUR WRITING AND DRAWING BOARDS, TEAM! Let's hear from you fans out there in the Marvel Fantheon!

Dear VENOMVERSE Crew,

I wasn't around when the first Venom stories were available, so I wasn't really formally introduced. My collecting of comic books started probably when I was 10 or 11, but at that time I didn't know you could get comics from a comic book shop! So the books I collected were comprised of whatever caught my eye at the antique mall.

This is where I came upon a copy of VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #2 and I remember being blown away by it! The concept of a villain being a hero was absolutely foreign to me, I just didn't think it could be possible.

Now, years later, I have stacks on top of stacks of comics with VENOMVERSE being the most prized among all of them! I can only imagine how different my reading material would be had I not read that first Venom.

Many Thanks,
Alex L.

And thank YOU for being such a loyal Venom fan, Alex! I hope the rest of VENOMVERSE lives up to your enjoyment of the first issue!

Hello VENOM Team,

When this series was first announced I had some doubts about it.

It only took reading EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #1 to realize how unfounded those doubts were, and VENOMVERSE #1 did not disappoint.

Your choice of characters to serve as alternate Venoms has been incredibly creative, their characterization is strong, and you've gone for a simple but effective villain.

I'm more excited about VENOMVERSE than any other Marvel event, and I can't wait to read what happens next.

Sincerely,
Gareth E.

WOW! Thanks so much for the high praise, Gareth! It really means a lot whenever we hear people enjoying the work we do here at the House of Ideas, but your MOST ANTICIPATED EVENT?! Hoo boy, I know that feeling, and I hope we lived up to the hype!

Dear Venomverse team,

I'm not usually one to write in unless it's X-Men related, but WOW. VENOMVERSE #1 blew me away. Between it and VENOMVERSE: WAR STORIES (especially the stories by Bunn, Okorafor and Visaggio), I'm on board for the entirety of this event.

Also, huge props on all of the artists, inkers and letterers involved. They're all on top of their game, and I can't wait to see what else is in store. Thanks for reminding me why I'm a Marvel fan!

Tyler

And thanks for reminding me why I'm a Marvel editor with your appreciation of the skill all our writers, artists and letterers bring to their craft.

Hey, Venom gang!

It's your friendly neighborhood Jesse again (wrote in on VENOM #150!). Just wanted to say I'm loving VENOMVERSE thus far after issue #1. The art that lends itself to the craziness of the story, the writing… it's awesome, all of it.

Also loved seeing Jack O'Lantern get some page-time again. Even if he got pulverized.

Loving the book, guys. You've won me over. I'm super excited for the following issues in the coming weeks!

And we'll close it out today with this special piece of fan art from one of Spidey's biggest fans, Xavier R. Check out his AWESOME creation – CARNOM!

Great work on this, Xavier, from all your pals at Marvel!

That'll do it for this one, Venomaniacs! Don't miss Venom's continuing adventures as we revisit his time as the LETHAL PROTECTOR as part of his ongoing series in MARVEL LEGACY!

BUT WAIT! In case you hadn't noticed, there are TWO MORE PAGES to this comic book. That's right, True Believer! We're not quite outta the woods yet.

Why not take a gander at the next couple of pages and see what else might be waiting out there in the VENOMVERSE…

Over and out!

Devin
@edevinlewis

MY LORD, I--

I FAILED.

THE SORCERER WAS LOST.

IT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE. THERE ARE OTHER *MAGICIANS.*

OUR NUMBERS ARE STILL VAST.

AND THANKS TO STRANGE AND HIS ARMY, WE KNOW THERE ARE COUNTLESS REALITIES YET TO BE FOUND.

AND WE POISONS WILL *CONQUER* THEM *ALL!*

ZONE